

*Special War Revenue Act*

Mr. BENNETT: I said that that was not what we were discussing to-night; that we were discussing the question of taxation on the transfer of shares. We discussed the other matter some days ago. I suggest to the minister that he abandon this taxation in its entirety, having regard to his buoyant revenues, and after the speech to which we listened to-night from the hon. member for South Timiskaming, who has given a great deal of consideration to the matter and whose province is developing a mining industry without any assistance from this government. Of course the Minister of Finance will say: "Have we not put mining machinery on the free list?" Well, the mines would be developed whether he did that or not, whether he obtained or lost the revenue. What has the government done to develop the mining industry? The tax should be imposed by the province which has to bear the burden, not by the Dominion government, which picks out this industry as a target at which to aim taxation.

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend the leader of the opposition is arguing as if this were a new tax.

Mr. BENNETT: No.

Mr. ROBB: It is a revision of a tax already imposed.

Mr. BENNETT: The other was a mere stamp tax.

Mr. ROBB: Well, this is a stamp tax.

Mr. STEVENS: No.

Mr. BENNETT: It would not be classified as such.

Mr. MANION: It is a revision upwards, of course.

Mr. ROBB: I am in agreement with my hon. friend as to the desirability of getting away as soon as possible from this double taxation, but he will not deny that the federal authorities have the right to impose taxation anywhere in Canada.

Mr. BENNETT: I do not for a moment doubt that right.

Mr. ROBB: We require the revenue. We cannot build railways into the mining districts to take out the ore unless we get revenue somewhere.

Mr. BENNETT: But the freight rates surely furnish that revenue. According to the Minister of Railways that is so; otherwise we would not be building railways.

[Mr. E. J. Young.]

Mr. ROBB: My hon. friend has admitted that we have contributed towards helping the mines by reducing the duties on the implements of production required in the mines.

Mr. BENNETT: Implements of production not made in Canada.

Mr. ROBB: But apparently my hon. friend has forgotten that the government has built some railways into this section and proposes to build more. We must have revenue, and I submit that this is a fair tax. It is a revision of an old tax.

Mr. MANION: A revision upwards.

Mr. ROBB: If my hon. friend from Fort William is right, another year is coming and the matter can be considered.

Mr. MANION: I do not know why the Minister of Finance should link me up with that "another year". He has done that two or three times. I said that if he could not do it this year, he should do it next year. Let him put the responsibility on his own shoulders. He takes the attitude that this is a revision of the tax and he is a great boaster of revising taxes downwards. This is a revision upwards. As regards the Dominion government helping mining by building railways, the government that built railways to help mining was the Conservative government of Ontario. The Timiskaming and Northern Ontario was the railway that did a great deal towards the development of mining in this country.

Mr. MALCOLM: Who started the Timiskaming and Northern Ontario?

Mr. MANION: I do not know, but I know who completed it.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Oh, oh!

Mr. MANION: My hon. friends may laugh, but they do not know any more about who started it than I do.

An hon. MEMBER: Yes, they do.

Mr. MANION: The Conservative government was the one that built it, and the Conservative government of Ontario has done more for mining in this country than any other government. I think the minister would be well advised to change the tax this year. I repeat that if he does not do it this year, he should do it next year.